

REMARKS

Claim 22 is amended. Support for the amendment language is provided by exemplary embodiments of the invention disclosed by the originally-filed application at, for example, Fig. 3. Claims 110-112, 115-117 and 119-120 are cancelled.

Claims 110 and 112 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Neu, 5,839,337. Claims 22, 92-93, 101-106, 109 and 115 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Neu in view of Patadia et al., 6,146,504. Claims 31-34 and 100 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Neu in view of Patadia et al., and further in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art. Claim 111 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Neu.

Claim 22 stands rejected by the combination of Neu and Patadia. Claim 22 is amended to recite a recessed portion terminating at an uppermost surface of a panel wherein an entirety of the recessed portion is elevationally above the uppermost surface. Patadia fails to teach these positively recited limitations, and therefore, the Examiner relies on Neu of the combination to allegedly teach the limitations. The Examiner relies on Neu's teaching to a pallet 62, and cavities 63 formed therein, to allegedly teach the panel and recessed portion, respectively, recited in claim 22 (pgs. 3-4 of paper no. 11242004). However, the recessed portions (cavities) 63 of Neu are formed to extend entirely through panel (pallet) 62 (cols. 5-6 and Figs. 4-5 of Neu). Logically, at least a region of the recessed portions of Neu has to extend elevationally below an uppermost surface of the panel, and therefore, does not teach or suggest **an entirety** of the *recessed portion* is


elevationally above the uppermost surface as positively recited by claim 22. Accordingly, since Neu fails to teach or suggest a positively recited limitation of claim 22, claim 22 is allowable.

Claims 31-34, 92-93, 100-106 and 109 depend from independent claim 22, and therefore, are allowable for the reasons discussed above with respect to the independent claim, as well as for their own recited features which are not shown or taught by the art of record.

This application is now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance, and action to that end is respectfully requested. If the Examiner's next anticipated action is to be anything other than a Notice of Allowance, the undersigned respectfully requests a telephone interview prior to issuance of any such subsequent action.

Respectfully submitted,

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